

# Concurrent Systems

*Nebenläufige Systeme*

## VII. Semaphore

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## Agenda

Preface

Fundamentals

Classification

Characteristics

Implementation

Data Structures

Functions

Mutex

Summary



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## Subject Matter

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  - with the **general semaphore** as a measure that supports both
  - while the **binary semaphore** was/is intended to support the latter, only



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- comprehensive differentiation of **semaphore** and **mutex**
  - in terms of the mutual exclusion aspect only, computer science folklore is right in stating disparities between the general variant and a mutex
  - but one have to be much more precise and argue with caution as far as the binary alternative is concerned



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A **binary semaphore** is a valid implementation of one of the many “mutex methods”, but not that restrictive as a “mutex entity” need to be.



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A **binary semaphore** is a valid implementation of one of the many “mutex methods”, but not that restrictive as a “mutex entity” need to be.

- elaboration of various implementation aspects regarding both types of semaphore as well as mutex as an entity



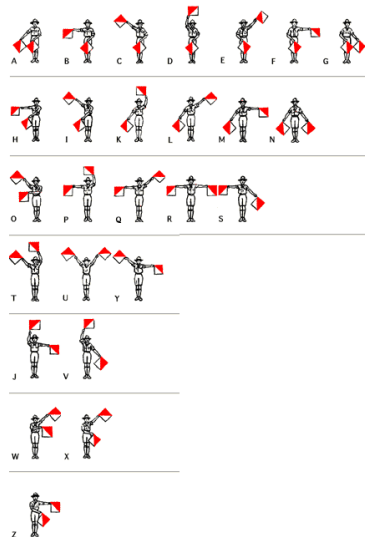
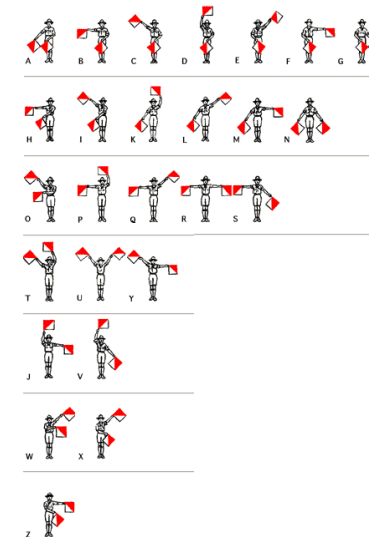
## Colloquialism

(Ger.) *Gemeinsprache, Redensart*



(Ger.) *Signalmast, Formsignal*



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## Concept for Cooperation and Communication

### Definition (Binary Semaphore)

*The semaphores are essentially non-negative integers; when only used to solve the mutual exclusion problem, the range of their values will even be restricted to "0" and "1". [2, p. 28]*



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- also referred to as **counting semaphore** (Ger. *zählender Semaphore*)



## Elementary Operations

- insensitive to the distinction between binary and general semaphore is the definition of two **intrinsic primitives** [1]:

P abbr. for (Hol.) **prolaag**; a.k.a. *down*, *wait*, or *acquire*, resp.

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- decreases<sup>1</sup> the value of the semaphore by 1:
  - i iff the resulting value would be non-negative [2, p. 29]
  - ii non-constraining [3, p. 345]
- blocks the process iff the value is or was, resp., 0 before decrease
  - blocking processes are put on a **waitlist** associated with each semaphore

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### Hint (Waitlist)

The **queuing discipline** rivals with planning decisions of the process scheduler and, thus, may be the cause of critical **interference**.

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- **multilateral synchronisation** [5, p. 15] of interacting processes
  - the critical section is considered as a **non-preemptable reusable resource** that needs to be allocated indivisibly to a process to be usable correctly
  - in logical respect, the process having completed  $P$  on semaphore  $S$  is the only one being authorised to complete  $V$  on  $S$

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  - $V$  must come before  $P$



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#### Hint (Mutex (cf. p.14/15))

A mutex is a **binary semaphore** that incorporates an **explicit check for authorisation** to release a critical section in the moment of  $V$ .



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  - used for **availability control** of entities of the following resource types:
    - i a **consumable resource** in the form of any data of any number
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    - in the end, the data store will have to be deallocated and, thus, made available again by the “data consumer”
- from this it follows that  $P$  and  $V$  applied to the same semaphore  $S$  must have to be accomplishable by different processes, normally
  - which makes the big difference to a binary semaphore or mutex, resp.



```

1 semaphore_t data = {0};
2
3 void producer() {
4     for (;;) {
5         /* data released */
6         V(&data);
7     }
8 }
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10 void consumer() {
11     for (;;) {
12         P(&data);
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- default value is 0
  - $P$  must block out only if there is no data
  - $V$  indicates more data
- calling sequence
  - $V$  must be actable independent of  $P$
  - in order to complete,  $P$  depends on  $V$
  - beware of an **overflow** of the values margin



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- usually, producer and consumer are different interacting processes
  - in case of one and the same process, the number of a completed  $V$  must exceed the number of a completed  $P$  in order to prevent deadlock
  - $\#V > \#P$ , which implies a path  $V \rightarrow P$  (i.e.,  $V$  “happens before”  $P$ )



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- as to interacting processes in the line of producer and consumer, the same applies as mentioned before:  $\#V > \#P$
- in other cases:  $\#V \leq \#P$ , must be completed by the same process



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*A means of managing an unlimited number of consumable resources on the basis of a limited number of reusable resources.*



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```

- indisputable classic in cooperation and communication of processes
  - simply a merge of the semaphore use pattern discussed as before
  - **transverse application** of  $P$  and  $V$  to a pair of general semaphores



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- a **mutex entity** ensures that the release of critical section CS will succeed only for the process having acquired CS
  - by extending a binary semaphore,  $P$  will have to record and  $V$  will have to check ownership of CS



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- $P$  and  $V$  on a **general semaphore** must be accomplishable in particular also by different processes
  - this is prevented by a mutex entity—but not by a mutex



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  - values  $S > 1$  must be prevented either by the use pattern or by the implementation of  $P$  and  $V$



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  - values  $S > 1$  must be prevented either by the use pattern or by the implementation of  $P$  and  $V$
- if **authorisation fails**, the process attempting to release CS should be aborted—in kernel mode, the computing system must be halted. . .



## Semaphore v. Mutex II

## Conceptual Level

## Hint (Computer Science Folklore)

A semaphore can be released by any process.

- incomplete or rough, if not broad-bush, phrase that must be regarded with suspicion—one have to distinguish between semaphore types<sup>2</sup>
  - strictly, essence of this phrase is **requirement** for a general semaphore
  - strictly as well, it is merely an **option** for a binary semaphore
    - in logical respect, a binary semaphore may not be released by any process
    - in physical respect, this however is not a must for any implementation



<sup>2</sup>see also p. 38

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## Hierarchic Placement

“Uses” [4] Process Instances

- the **standby position** of a process within  $P$  is passive, normally



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*A mutex can be released only by the process having it acquired.*

- a phrase that is slanted towards only one aspect as to the leastwise twofold non-uniform common understanding about a mutex:
  - i a category of **methods** for ensuring mutual exclusion *or*
  - ii the **implementation** of one of these methods in terms of an **entity**<sup>2</sup>

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  - if so, both may also entail context switching—"may" because:
    - $P$  – if no further process is ready to run, the **idle loop** becomes active
      - in that case, the blocking process likewise may fade to the **idle process**
      - thus, doing without a dedicated **idle-process instance** and context switch



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  - if so, both may also entail context switching—"may" because:
    - $V$  – if there is a waiting process, it will be set "ready to run" (cf. [9, p. 28])
      - in that case, **priority violation**<sup>3</sup> must be prevented (scheduling discipline!)
      - thus, the current process may defer to a prior-ranking one: context switch



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- the **standby position** of a process within  $P$  is passive, normally
  - "blocks the" or "unblocks a", resp. (cf. p. 8), process means rescheduling
  - if so, both may also entail context switching—"may" because:
    - $P$  – if no further process is ready to run, the **idle loop** becomes active
      - in that case, the blocking process likewise may fade to the **idle process**
      - thus, doing without a dedicated **idle-process instance** and context switch
    - $V$  – if there is a waiting process, it will be set "ready to run" (cf. [9, p. 28])
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- $P$  and  $V$  relies on **process management** of the operating system
  - one have to put the current process asleep and get a sleeping process up
  - in functional terms, however,  $P$  and  $V$  need not be system calls
  - in non-functional terms,  $P$  and  $V$  should be close to the **scheduler**
    - by settling  $P$  and  $V$  in the address space of the operating-system kernel or
    - by making scheduler functions available through “strawweight” system calls

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## Waitlist Association

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    - to unblock, a process-table walk looks for that mark
    - constant ( $P$ ) and variable but bounded above ( $V$ ) run-time
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### Hint (Process-Table Walk—Conformance to Scheduling)

Part of the scheduler, lookup function to locate a process descriptor on the basis of the blocked-on mark as search key.



## Indivisible Operation I

Rationale

- in the absence of simultaneous processes, the implementation of a semaphore could be as simple as follows:

```
1 void prolaag(semaphore_t *sema) {
2     if (!claim(sema)) /* at the moment, unavailable */
3         sleep(&sema->wand);
4 }
5
6 void verhoog(semaphore_t *sema) {
7     if (unban(sema)) /* as from now, available */
8         rouse(&sema->wand);
9 }
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  - whereat *claim* decreases and *unban* increases the value of the semaphore according to binary or general, resp., characteristic<sup>4</sup>

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- whereat *claim* decreases and *unban* increases the value of the semaphore according to binary or general, resp., characteristic<sup>4</sup>
- but, assuming that the presence of simultaneous processes is possible, this implementation shows a **race condition**  $\leadsto$  **lost wakeup**
  - while going to sleep, i.e. being “sleepy”, the process gets delayed
  - but in good faith of a sleeper, the “sleepy” process may be missed

<sup>4</sup>The implementation of these helper functions will be revealed later.



- P* and *V* itself constitute a **critical section**, likewise, that must be protected in order to function correctly
  - protection should be constructed **per semaphore instance**, not *P/V*

```

1 void prolaag(semaphore_t *sema) {
2     atomic *sema = {
3         if (!claim(sema))
4             sleep(&sema->wand);
5     }
6 }
7
8 void verhoog(semaphore_t *sema) {
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#### Deadlock Prevention

Provided that protection of the critical section on the *P* side is not deregulated, the *V* side will never complete and, thus, will never cause unblocking of a process:

- the right location for deregulation is *sleep*
- after the process was marked sleeping



- protection of the  $P/V$  pair against simultaneous processes sharing a semaphore follows either the blocking or non-blocking paradigm



<sup>5</sup>abbr. for *first- or second-level interrupt handling*, resp.

- protection of the  $P/V$  pair against simultaneous processes sharing a semaphore follows either the blocking or non-blocking paradigm
  - blocking
    - inhibit FLIH<sup>5</sup>, postpone SLIH<sup>5</sup>, or lock process
    - problem-specific construction of an **enter/leave** pair
  - ↪ coming right up next in this lecture (cf. p. 22ff.)



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- fall back on the elementary operations of the ISA level
- problem-specific construction of  $P$  and  $V$

 ↪ coming up as a case study in the context of LEC 10/11



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- more detailed analysis of the “atomic” version of  $P$  reveals another problem: **overtaking** of an aroused process
  - upon return from *sleep* a formerly blocked process may complete  $P$  by mistake, joining a process in the critical section to be protected by  $P$
  - this is because completion of  $V$  also opens the door for any process, not only for a process having been blocked at the semaphore
- ↪ if applicable, aroused processes have to **retry claiming**: `if` ↪ `while`



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- not least, concurrency had to be constricted to no more than what is absolutely necessary: reflect on *claim/sleep* and *unban/rouse*

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Preface

Fundamentals

Classification

Characteristics

Implementation

Data Structures

Functions

Mutex

Summary

## Semaphore Data Type

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- purpose of “wand” (Ger. *Zauberstab*) is to **safeguard** the semaphore operations in various respect
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- a wand that takes care of **mutual exclusion** techniques by means of locks [8], for example, could be the following:

```
1 typedef volatile struct wand {
2     lock_t clue;        /* protects P or V, resp. */
3     event_t wait;       /* list of sleeping processes */
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↔ becoming acquainted with other wands is content of future lectures. . .



## $P$ and $V$ Safeguarded

### Mutual Exclusion

```
1 void prolaag(semaphore_t *sema) {
2     enter(&sema->wand);    /* avert overlapped P or V */
3     lodge(sema);           /* raise claim to proceed */
4     when (!avail(sema))    /* check for process delay */
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9 void verhoog(semaphore_t *sema) {
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11    if (unban(sema))        /* release semaphore */
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- exercise caution in the analysis of these program statements:
  - 4 ■ if applicable, “when” takes care of overtaking processes
  - 11–12 ■ if applicable, search for sleepers happens unconditionally
    - in case of (i) logical waitlist and (ii) strict binary semaphore



## Acquire and Release Semaphore I

- load/store-based implementation for a **binary semaphore**:

```

1 inline int lodge(semaphore_t *sema) {
2     return 42;
3 }
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5 inline bool avail(semaphore_t *sema) {
6     return (sema->gate == 0) ? false : !(sema->gate = 0);
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- also note the persisting sensitivity to simultaneous processes: *avail*
  - use within a safeguarded program section is assumed...



## Acquire and Release Semaphore II

- enumerator-based implementation for a **general semaphore**:

```
1 inline int lodge(semaphore_t *sema) {
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5 inline bool avail(semaphore_t *sema) {
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- **general semaphore**
  - overtaking impossible
    - $gate \leq 0$  when a process aroused
    - rival process in  $P$  causes  $gate < 0$
    - ↪ will be forced to *sleep*
    - ↪ aroused process may proceed
  - **#define when if**
    - susceptible to **erroneous rouse**



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### Hint (erroneous rouse)

*Caused by misuse of  $V$  or by forced and uncontrolled unblocking of a process that went to sleep in  $P$ . Both are programming errors: the former at (semaphore) application level, the latter at system level.*





```

1 inline void sleep(wand_t *wand) {
2     catch(&wand->wait); /* disclose process to V */
3     leave(wand);        /* allow P or V */
4     coast();            /* take a break */
5     enter(wand);        /* apply for return to P */
6 }
7
8 inline void rouse(wand_t *wand) {
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```

■ constrict concurrency to no more than what is absolutely necessary:

- 2 ■ endorse interest of the current process of upcoming dormancy
- 3 ■ soon dormant process was made known, deregulate *P* safeguard
- 4 ■ transition to dormant state: rescheduling, context switch or idleness
- 5 ■ apply for return to safeguarded *P*
- 9 ■ dormant processes could be available, deregulate *V* safeguard
- 10 ■ annulment of dormant state: rescheduling, context switch



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■ constrict concurrency to no more than what is absolutely necessary:

- 2 ■ endorse interest of the current process of upcoming dormancy
- 3 ■ soon dormant process was made known, deregulate *P* safeguard ←
- 4 ■ transition to dormant state: rescheduling, context switch or idleness
- 5 ■ apply for return to safeguarded *P*
- 9 ■ dormant processes could be available, deregulate *V* safeguard ←
- 10 ■ annulment of dormant state: rescheduling, context switch



- catch** ■ exists in two variants, depending on the waitlist model (cf. p 17):
- i store of a blocked-on mark in the process descriptor *or*
  - ii enqueue of the process descriptor into a queue data structure
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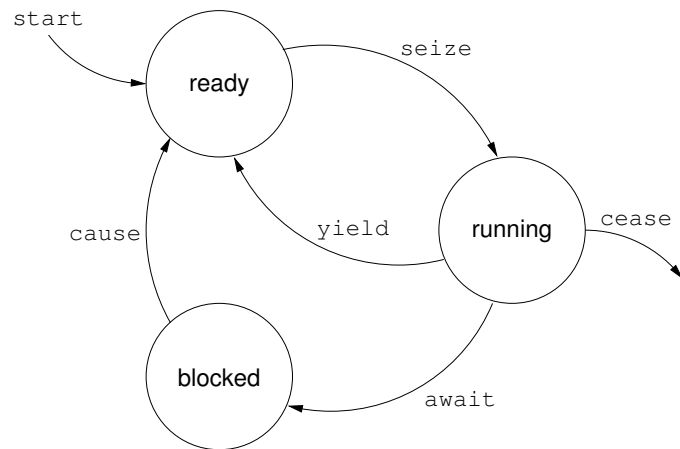


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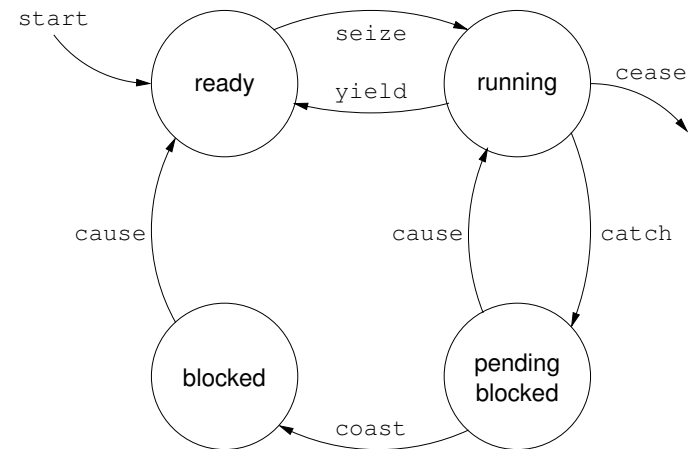
**Hint (Idle State (cf. p. 16 and p. 39))**

*The last process blocked may find itself on the ready list. Same may happen to the “sleepy process” as coast runs deregulated to P/V.*





- $\text{ready} \leftrightarrow \text{running}$  ■ scheduler
- $\text{blocked} \rightarrow \text{ready}$  ■ iff *effective signalling* ( $V$ ), i.e., waiting process
- $\text{running} \rightarrow \text{blocked}$  ■  $P$ , intermediate step needed: prevent *lost wakeup*



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- $\text{blocked} \rightarrow \text{ready}$  ■ iff *effective signalling* ( $V$ ), i.e., waiting process
- $\text{running} \leftrightarrow \text{pending}$  ■ doze ( $P \rightarrow$ ), *effective signalling* ( $\leftarrow V$ )
- $\text{pending} \rightarrow \text{blocked}$  ■ deep sleep ( $P$ ), no overlapping  $V$



## Semaphore Gatekeeper

(Ger.) *Schrankenwärter, Türhüter*

- as there is no single solution to protect  $P$  and  $V$  adequately, the wand attribute symbolises intention to application orientation
  - depending on the mode of operation or use case, the wand acts differently
  - assuming that processing elements are not multiplexed [7, p. 5], then:

```

1 inline void enter(wand_t *wand) {
2     lock(&wand->clue);
3 }
4
5 inline void leave(wand_t *wand) {
6     unlock(&wand->clue);
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- wand capability depends on the “type of exclusion” in relation to the required characteristics of the operating system machine level:

- $\text{partial}$  ■ processor **multiplexing**  $\leadsto$  interrupt control
- $\text{mutual}$  ■ processor **multiplication**  $\leadsto$  process lock, see example above



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- wand capability depends on the “type of exclusion” in relation to the required characteristics of the operating system machine level:
  - partial** ■ processor **multiplexing**  $\leadsto$  interrupt control
  - mutual** ■ processor **multiplication**  $\leadsto$  process lock, see example above
- combination of both is optional, not mandatory, and problem-specific
  - depends on the degree of parallelism (a) allowed for by the application use case and (b) made possible by the ISA level



- given the concept of a binary semaphore, implementation of a **mutex** is straightforward and, absolutely, no black magic:
  - a mutex data structure is composed of two parts:
    - i a binary semaphore used to actually protect the critical section *and*
    - ii a handle that uniquely identifies the process having acquired the mutex<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>At kernel level, the handle is the pointer to the process descriptor of the process instance. At user level, it is the process identification.



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    - acquire** – performs the  $P$  and registers the current process as owner
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      - in case of a wrong owner, the current process or kernel, resp., panics

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- a corresponding **data type** may be laid out as follows:

```

1 typedef volatile struct mutex {
2     semaphore_t sema;    /* binary semaphore */
3     process_t *link;     /* owning process or 0 */
4 } mutex_t;

```

<sup>6</sup>At kernel level, the handle is the pointer to the process descriptor of the process instance. At user level, it is the process identification.



## Acquire and Release Mutex

```
1 extern void panic(char*) __attribute__((noreturn));
2
3 void acquire(mutex_t *mutex) {
4     P(&mutex->sema);          /* lockout */
5     mutex->link = being(ONESELF); /* register owner */
6 }
7
8 void release(mutex_t *mutex) {
9     if (mutex->link != being(ONESELF)) /* it's not me! */
10        panic("unauthorised release of mutex");
11
12     mutex->link = 0;          /* deregister owner */
13     V(&mutex->sema);          /* unblock */
14 }
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  - presumably, the non-sequential program contains a **software fault** (bug)
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  - returning an error code is no option, as one cannot rely on error checking
  - any other than “raising a non-maskable exception” is a botch job...



## Outline

Preface

Fundamentals

Classification

Characteristics

Implementation

Data Structures

Functions

Mutex

Summary



## Résumé

- fundamental concept for cooperation and communication
  - binary and general/counting semaphore, intrinsic primitives  $P$  and  $V$
  - correlation to unilateral and multilateral synchronisation
  - differentiation as to mutex (methods v. implementation/entity)

### Hint

A **binary semaphore** is a valid implementation of one of the many “mutex methods”, but not that restrictive as a “mutex entity” need to be.

■ hierarchic placement at operating system machine level

- characteristics important in functional and non-functional terms
  - logical or physical waitlist, conformance to the scheduling discipline
  - deregulation of the protection of  $P$  against simultaneous processes
  - further shallows such as overtaking of unblocked processes in  $P$ :

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- not least, basic approaches and sketches of an implementation...



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## Extent of Critical Section

Binary Semaphore devoid of Waitlist<sup>7</sup>

1	...	■ let the sequence of instructions
2	movl 16(%esp), %edi	within $P$ be as follows:
3	leal 4(%edi), %esi	2 ■ point at semaphore
4	jmp LBB0_2	3 ■ point at lock structure
5	LBB0_1:	■ address is blocked-on mark
6	movl _life, %eax	12–13 ■ apply for $P$ protection
7	movl %esi, 4(%eax)	14–15 ■ check binary semaphore $S_b$
8	movl %esi, (%esp)	16–18 ■ unoccupied, take $S_b$
9	calll _unlock	■ quit $P$ protection, done
10	calll _coast	5 ■ occupied, $S_b$ already taken
11	LBB0_2:	6 ■ point at process structure
12	movl %esi, (%esp)	7 ■ define blocked-on mark
13	calll _lock	8–9 ■ deregulate $P$ protection
14	cmpl \$0, (%edi)	10 ■ fall asleep, dream about $V$
15	je LBB0_1	
16	movl \$1, (%edi)	
17	movl %esi, (%esp)	
18	calll _unlock	
19	...	



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14	cmpl \$0, (%edi)	10 ■ fall asleep, dream about $V$
15	je LBB0_1	
16	movl \$1, (%edi)	
17	movl %esi, (%esp)	■ locking overhead when unoccupied
18	calll _unlock	■ net worth of about 5 instructions ☺
19	...	↪ non-blocking synchronisation ☺

<sup>7</sup>Take a sledgehammer to crack a nut...

Commonalities and differences as to their possible **internal states**.

- general semaphore  $S_g$ :
  - positive** ■  $N > 0$  processes will complete  $P(S_g)$  without blocking
  - zero** ■  $P(S_g)$  will block the running process on the waitlist of  $S_g$
  - negative** ■  $P(S_g)$  will block the running process on the waitlist of  $S_g$ 
    - $|N|$  processes are blocked on the waitlist of  $S_g$
- binary semaphore  $S_b$ :
  - not taken** ■ exactly one process will complete  $P(S_b)$  without blocking
    - the very process becomes **logical owner** of  $S_b$
  - taken** ■  $P(S_b)$  will block the running process on the waitlist of  $S_b$ 
    - $V(S_b)$  should be performed only by the logical owner of  $S_b$
- mutex entity  $M$ : let  $A$  be *acquire* and let  $R$  be *release*
  - not owned** ■ exactly one process will complete  $A(M)$  without blocking
    - the very process becomes **physical owner** of  $M$
  - owned** ■  $A(M)$  will block the running process on the waitlist of  $M$ 
    - $R(M)$  can succeed only for the physical owner of  $M$



- principle pattern of a scheduler function to block a process
    - called by *coast* (cf. p. 27) and other functions to pause computation
- ```

1 void block() {
2     process_t *next, *self = being(ONESELF);
3
4     while (!(next = elect(hoard(READY))))
5         relax();                                /* no ready to run... */
6
7     if (next != self) {                          /* must relinquish */
8         self->state = BLOCKED;                  /* vacate processor */
9         seize(next);                             /* resume elected */
10    }
11    self->state = RUNNING;                        /* occupy processor */
12 }
```
- 4 ■ choose next process to be dispatched to the processor
  - 5 ■ ready list is empty, so the running process fades to the idle process
  - 7 ■ as the case may be, the running process may be allowed to continue:
    - i the idle/running process found itself ready-to-run on the ready list *or*
    - ii the running process, sent to sleep due to  $P$ , was roused due to  $V$  (p. 27)

